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LETTER DATED 10 MAY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the letter dated 20 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations transmitting the letter of the same date from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to you, as contained in document S/1999/455 of 21 April 1999, I have the honour to bring the following to your attention.

The Foreign Minister of Iraq, in that letter, by raising irrelevant and extraneous points, makes a cynical attempt to cover up the unflinching support of his Government for a terrorist group that is based in Iraq and that has manifestly claimed responsibility for many terrorist attacks and activities in Iran, the latest one being the assassination of Lieutenant-General Sayyad Shirzai, the Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I am sure that you are fully aware of the terrorist nature and activities of this infamous organization. Moreover, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has regularly brought to the attention of the United Nations the details of various transboundary terrorist activities carried out by the members of this terrorist organization from the territory of Iraq in and against the Islamic Republic of Iran (see, for instance, documents S/1994/983 of 21 August 1994, S/1994/1145 of 10 October 1994 and S/1994/1273 of 10 November 1994. This organization maintains its headquarters in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, operates various terrorist camps using Iraqi military facilities and installations throughout Iraq, receives training facilities, weapons and ammunition from Iraq and mainly depends on the political, moral, military and financial support of that Government. The group has, on many occasions, claimed responsibility for many blind terrorist attacks against civilians in Iran, killing and injuring hundreds of innocent Iranian citizens. Therefore, Iran holds the Government of Iraq fully responsible for the subversive operations of this terrorist group, which is funded, directed, supported and conducted with the knowledge and active support of the Government of Iraq.

Ironically, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq considers Iran's warning against terrorism, emanating from Iraq and with its full and extensive support for a terrorist group, as an attempt by Iran to "harm Iraq's good name".

That is truly a distortion of the fact. It is the Government of Iraq which continues to harm "Iraq's good name" by its policies and practices, which are well known to the international community. Iraq's policies and actions to undermine the security and territorial integrity of neighbouring countries have in fact tarnished "Iraq's good name". The unlawful and irresponsible policies of the Government of Iraq to use its territory, where terrorism is nurtured, planned and carried out, against a neighbouring country, would not restore the prestige and pride that the Iraqi people deserve to enjoy in the region and beyond.

The letter of the Foreign Minister of Iraq also contains two types of arguments with no relevance whatsoever to the subject matter and can only be interpreted as a purported attempt to cover up its plain policies of sponsoring terrorism. It is just that - cynical and devoid of any value. First, it refers to some cases relating to the alleged violations of the ceasefire between the two countries. Iran categorically refutes all those allegations made against it in the above-mentioned letter of Iraq's Foreign Minister, and considers these false accusations as sheer propaganda by the Government of Iraq to advance its domestic agenda as well as to distract international attention from its unlawful behaviour. Second, Iran cannot be blamed for that which is related to the consequences of Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait in August 1990. A reference to this matter in that letter is not only irrelevant and impertinent, but a futile attempt by the Government of Iraq to evade its obligations under the applicable resolutions of the Security Council.

As a victim of terrorism, the Islamic Republic of Iran remains opposed to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations wherever and by whomever committed. Iran rejects unequivocally all acts of violence and stands prepared, as in the past, to cooperate with the international community to combat terrorism wholeheartedly. In this context, I would like to reaffirm that the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its right to self-defence, in accordance with international law and the United Nations Charter, with a view to safeguarding its security and territorial integrity against terrorist acts.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hadi NEJAD HOSSEINIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative